

(i) The diets of about 47% of rural households are energy deficient.

(ii) About 50% of adults on the basis of Body Mass Index are suffering from chronic energy deficiency (BMI) value less than 18.5

(iii) About 9% of pre-school children (between 1-5 Years) suffer from severe forms of malnutrition (Body weight for age less than 60% of NCHS standards.) Another 44% of children suffer from moderate degree of Malnutrition (Body weight between 60-75%).

(b) Households belonging to low socio-economic group of population (in rural as well as urban areas) suffer from the problem of malnutrition.

(c) The nature of mal-nutrition among the population is as follows:

(i) Protein Energy Malnutrition;

(ii) Vitamin A Deficiency;

(iii) Iron Deficiency Anaemia;

(iv) Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

(d) To improve average consumption of nutrients in the vulnerable groups, Government of India have initiated a number of programmes:

(i) Supplementary feeding programme under the scheme of integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is implemented to fill the critical calorie gap in pre-school children and women during pregnancy and lactation.

(ii) Vitamin A distribution programme to prevent Vitamin 'A' deficiency in pre-

school children (1-5 years).

(iii) Distribution of Iron and Folic Acid Tablets programme (Anaemia, Prophylaxis programme):- distribution of Iron and Folic Acid Tablets to pregnant and lactating women and children upto 10 years and to family planning acceptors.

(iv) Supply of iodised salt to prevent Iodine deficiency disorders.

(v) Supply of foodgrains on subsidised rates to the poor through public distribution system.

Report on Railway Management

3355. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee headed by Shri D.V. Chandra, Adviser (Planning), Railways, constituted to go into the financial conditions and resource management of the railways has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main observations and recommendations made in the report; and

(c) the decisions taken in the light thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

New Halts for Express Trains on Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Route

3356. SHRI K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: